



Lake and Drive in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore

PUBLIC GARDENS for the PEOPLE

By Katherine L. Smith



A Pretty Nook in a Pittsburgh Park



A California Beauty Spot



Washington Monument Capital Park, Richmond, Va.



A Park Scene in Minneapolis, Minn.

It is little wonder that people in crowded districts, shut in by brick and mortar, deprived of flowers, with none of the privileges of country life, should thirst for substitutes, for woods and fields and the glimpses of rural landscapes that parks afford. Parks for cities are a demand born of necessity. The health and happiness of the public demand that open spaces should be provided for public use. President Roosevelt was the first to suggest that solutions of municipal problems might be obtained through Congress having direct control of the city government at Washington and making it a model municipality. If this were feasible one of the first movements would be toward the establishment of a park system, for open places and public playgrounds are necessary means for the development of wholesome citizenship.

Though the park movement has grown wonderfully in the past few years, so that approximately there are being spent annually in the towns and cities of the United States \$11,000,000 for park improvement and maintenance, and 75,000 acres of land, apart from United States government reservations, have been dedicated to public use, most of the large parks have been located on the outskirts of the city, away from the crowded districts which need them. This has arisen from the failure of those who lay out cities to set aside land for public use, from the desire to obtain land at reasonable cost and from the fact that much of the land has been acquired by gift.

If the city fathers, in planning a town, would more often consider the desirability of parks, the question of location would be settled while land is cheap and many breathing places could be located in the business portion of the city. When a city is built, the problem has to be solved in the best way, expense, location and available land being taken into consideration.

The park idea is the result of a gradual growth of taste, and civic pride for open spaces are a delight to the educated and well-to-do as well as to the poor. That the demand for beauty in cities has increased of late years may be gathered from the fact that when, in 1853, an effort was made to secure land for Central Park, New York, it was most bitterly opposed, and the movement grew so slowly that in 1856 there were only 20 large rural parks in the United States. Today the whole attitude has changed. One firm of landscape artists alone direct park work in nearly 50 cities at an expenditure of \$50,000,000, positive proof, if one were needed, that parks and public open places in a town are now demanded as a necessity.

The chief difficulty in the older cities lies in obtaining good locations, for aside from expense, sanitation and art are to be taken into account. The small, new village can overcome obstacles by planning when lots are laid out. Other places are attempting to provide breathing places by choosing sites on the outskirts and connecting them by boulevards, thus creating a chain system, which in some cases encircles the town. This is one solution of the park question. Others are a large number of small, scattered spaces, about a quarter of a mile square or a smaller number of large parks. The first system has been adopted by Boston and Chicago. Many other cities, New York in particular, are considering the advisability of adopting, as in Paris, little spaces in the central part of the city, on the theory that these numerous small areas draw many people to the French city in search of a pleasant shade.

New York is also starting to connect some of her 164 parks by a series of boulevards which will join the different park areas into one long whole. This was done in the case of several parks and parkways and the effect has added much to the viewpoint of the city's beauty. The Parkside Park, intended to preserve the famous palisades of the Hudson, will be wonderfully beautiful and will form a portion of a Greater New York system, which will not only serve the purpose of beauty, but will broaden the feeling of personal interest in the outdoor possibilities.

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tion of the land and the desire to make use of a waterfront. These are two phases of natural scenery that suggest nature working in a generous and spontaneous manner. They are equally desirable whether in an outer system or in a public open space near the center of the town. These features are often hard to obtain, but whatever the selection it is desirable, when a city grows and the surrounding country becomes more and more remote, to have open spaces scattered through the town. These may take the place of an outer chain system in small places that are not connected with outlying towns. The size of the town and the financial condition must always be taken into account, for the cost of maintenance must be met annually.

Often waste land, which if uncared for would become an eyesore, forms a location for a picturesque park, and the spot becomes a beauty instead of a menace to public health. In all cases, the landscape artist can advise what is the best method of treatment, whether to use artificial adornment, to employ trees and shrubs, and how to frame the picture. The modern method is to reserve formalism for small areas or to protect some place of historic or local interest and to depend on natural features for large tracts, and many a monotonous level surface has been changed by border plants and fringes of trees and shrubs.

In some locations a playground may be demanded with accommodations for athletic and field sports. The park on Harriet Island, in St. Paul, contains all these and is furnished with elaborate and practical bathhouses. Scranton, Pa., has a park with a commodious kitchen for the use of picnickers, as well as many summer shelter tents. Playgrounds in parks are always in demand. A park may be more beautiful if people are expected to walk in defined districts, but it will not be as useful and enjoyable as the one where a part is given to the playground and the people. If persons are allowed to roam at will over the grass, the green may die, but every park should contain an area where the enjoyment of the people, young and old, is the first consideration. The necessity of maintaining fresh air and the advisability of zoological and botanical gardens are also factors to be considered.

Our cities do not lack illustrations of fine treatment of parks and the number in process of establishment bespeaks an added value to real estate and a soothing influence to the weary body. The spread of the movement shows that the entire nation is ready to extend park development from the esthetic, business and hygienic point of view. Whether the outer chain system or the embellishment of inner sections is attempted must depend on the size of the city and the use to which the parks will be put. Though we are woefully behind Europe in our civic art, our cities have in some instances better park systems. It is true that the large suburban parks of Paris are near enough to the city to be thronged on holidays, but they were really royal preserves. Windsor Park, in London, though a large one, is also a royal domain and somewhat hard of access. Much of the beauty in foreign cities lies in the wide streets rather than in the parks.

In any mental picture of a beautiful city, there is no doubt but parks take the first place, but they are useless unless they can be reached by the people and are convenient for the poor. Many of the elegant parkways form magnificent carriage drives but are of little good to the man who with difficulty pays street car fare. If any system of parks, chain or otherwise, is to be of benefit, it must be accessible and become an integral part of a city's throbbing life. Fresh air, trees, shrubs, flowers—these are the possession of the people by birthright. Parks must provide these and become a necessary as well as an esthetic phase of the many urban blessings.

Queer Superstitions.

MANY noted men have had peculiar superstitions which have clung to them throughout their lives. One of the most peculiar was that of President McKinley, who often declined to make public engagements on Friday. He also often refused to sign documents on this day. Bismarck had a great veneration for the numeral three, often dividing his work, his duties and everything possible into three parts. Emilie Zola, the novelist, always carried a small piece of coral about with him to ward off ill luck. He also carried a bloodstone.

The Women of the CABINET (SECTION ONE)



Mrs. Philander C. Knox Wife of Sec. of State

ONLY one woman in the whole United States can enjoy at a time the unique distinction of being the First Lady of the Land. Mrs. William H. Taft must perform her considered the most distinguished hostess at this time in the United States, and just as her famous husband has around him notable advisers composing his Cabinet, so Mrs. Taft has the counsel and support of the chief lady in the household of each cabinet officer.

In the present arrangement Mr. Taft has one the better of his better half in that the President has nine lawful and legal advisers in his Cabinet, while the wilful and confirmed bachelordom of Postmaster General Hitchcock has hitherto deprived Mrs. Taft of one of the normal quota in her circle of Cabinet ladies. There is a persistent rumor in Washington official circles that Mr. Hitchcock has realized the error of his unmarried state and will shortly change for a state of married blessedness. However, up to date President Taft has nine Cabinet members, while only eight of them have furnished a representative to Mrs. Taft's official circle.



Mrs. Jacob H. Dickinson Wife of Sec. of War

one of the arduous tasks which Washington expects from a cabinet lady. It is characteristic of her that she invariably seeks out utter strangers at brilliant White House functions and makes it her pleasure to enable them to feel perfectly at home.

But while the most important function of the cabinet lady is, of course, assisting Mrs. Taft to welcome guests at White House receptions, there are many less talked of duties which fall to her lot. For instance, from the viewpoint of her husband's individual career, perhaps the most vital duty of the cabinet lady is the receiving and entertaining of the President and his wife, the diplomatic gentility of all ranks and countries, and above all, the caring skillfully for all the many important visitors to Washington among the political friends and constituents of her husband.

The president always attempts to strengthen his advisory council not only with brilliant minds, but in a crude way the membership of the cabinet is supposed to represent the various sections of this broad land. To Washington during the official season there is ever pouring an endless succession of visitors, thousands of whom turn to some member of the cabinet for social entertainment and entry into official society. At this point the entire matter devolves on the cabinet member's wife. Hence this poor lady is often at her wit's end to arrange for the hope and ever-increasing demands on her resources. Failure usually means that her husband loses some important political influence which originally helped to secure his cabinet position.



Mrs. Franklin McVeagh Wife of Sec. of the Treasury

Taft's cabinet is of course Mrs. Franklin McVeagh, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury. Mrs. McVeagh is splendidly equipped for her duties, as her husband is a man of immense wealth and she has for years filled the position of a hostess in an important social sense.

Mrs. Jacob M. Dickinson has a slight advantage over most of the new cabinet ladies in that, for four years, during Mr. McKinley's administration, she was a notable hostess in Washington as the wife of the Assistant Attorney-General of the United States. She is a woman of studious tastes, yet also democratic and domestic in her ideas. So now on her return as the wife of the country's latest Secretary of War, Mrs. Dickinson is equipped splendidly for a marked social as well as political career, in the swirling circles of Washington official society.

preme Court of the United States and all the tremendous legal machinery which this government directs and controls from the national capital.

Here is the duty of receiving the hosts of prominent judges and lawyers whose business or pleasure may take them to Washington. She is strange to Washington, but has for many years been the wife of one of the wealthiest and best-known members of New York's legal community, and is therefore certain to fit easily and well into the topmost niche of the country's temple of justice.

One of the important duties of a secretary's wife is attending public functions in various sections of this ever-increasing land. Cornerstones to be laid, hospitals semi-political duties fall on the cabinet member and in a similar degree on his lady. All this has come with the vast increases in our national territory. It remained for the twentieth century to furnish the spectacle of a cabinet official-circling the globe as the representative of the United States government. The man who did this is now the president of the entire republic, and Mrs. Taft, as the First Lady of the Land, has had an experience as a member of the cabinet circle that makes her peculiarly fitted to understand and respect the station and the enormous responsibilities which must be shouldered by the eight American women whom Fate and her husband's dictum have grouped around her as her political and social advisers in the administration of a world power.

Sale of Champagne.

REGARDLESS of the fact that many have complained of exceedingly hard times during the past year, it is claimed that there is one industry in the country which has not suffered to any great extent—the domestic champagne industry. "The demand for American champagne last year was far greater than ever before," says the president of one of America's largest wine companies. "We sold many thousands more cases last year than during the year before, and I know one cellar alone where sales were increased by more than \$25,000 during the 12 months." The manufacturers and the trade account for the increase by the theory that the champagne consuming income of the country was hit so hard by the panic that it could no longer stand for the high-priced imported fizz and turned to the domestic article instead. The American wine merchants and manufacturers claim that for the first time the domestic product has attracted the attention of a majority of the buyers, and that within a few years the wine will have a greater sale than the foreign liquors.

Every year the English postoffice gathers up 20,000 letters which were posted without addresses.

FACTS AND FIGURES. France has 7,883 postal savings banks. The War Department paid \$94,418 for artificial limbs last year. One-fifth of the country's wealth is represented in the New York Stock Exchange.

On the basis of a bushel of corn producing 2.5 gallons of alcohol, it has been figured out that last year's corn crop in the United States was sufficient to furnish 20,000,000 horsepower for 10 hours a day for an entire year.

Snake Bite Antitoxin.

ASURE and scientific cure for snake bite is by no means as important in the United States as in India, where thousands die annually from poisonous snake bites. Yet casualties are so frequent that the directors of the Rockefeller Institute of New York city have started their learned professors to work in an attempt to secure an antitoxin against all snake poisons and against that of "crotales horridus," or the forest rattlesnake, in particular.

This latter reptile is the most numerous of all the poisonous snakes in the Western Hemisphere and his countless numbers in the United States occasion the little comprehended fact that the northern part of this country contains more poison snakes than the lower half and even probably as many as South America. Of course the Southern States and South America contain many more different species of poison snakes than the upper half of the United States. But the vast numbers of timber rattlesnakes make the total much greater.

So the scientists in the Rockefeller Institute are now collecting rattlesnake poison from snakes kept for this very purpose, and horses have been injected with gradually increasing doses. It requires about two years for a horse to be treated before his blood is sufficiently filled with the antitoxic elements so that his blood is sufficient to cure snake bite. The horse starts with infinitesimal doses of the poison. Then he gets larger and larger quantities, and finally he takes 20

times the amount of rattlesnake poison that would have killed him inside an hour before the treatment was begun on him. The horse is then not only poison-proof against the deadly rattlesnake, but his blood when drawn off gives up a serum that will cure the snake bite in human beings.

When a gallon of his blood is drawn off it is allowed to settle and dry, and then a thin serum appears. This is the antitoxin and it is put into glycerin cultures, where it thrives; later preservative chemicals are added. Then when it is packed away into a poison cure package for shipment it can be obtained right after the bite and injected right along side the bitten portion of the human body. Then a battle between the snake poison and antitoxin takes place. When the injection comes quickly after the bite the cure is rapid and there is little danger.

But it must come rapidly, for many times after a rattlesnake bite death ensues in 20 minutes, although the usual period is from six to twelve hours. With the cobra of the Indian jungle the poison effects are different, for the attack of this toxin is on the nervous system, producing paralysis and finally heart failure, through paralysis of the great nerves which keep the heart automatically operating.

Yet even this poison has been beaten, for the British scientists have established at Kasul, India, a laboratory where cobra poison antitoxin is made and sent all over India and if applied within an hour or two after the bite it usually saves the human life involved.